

Utility Service Emergencies

413.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for addressing County utility service emergencies. This policy will address calls for service that are directed to the Sheriff's Office.

413.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office to appropriately respond to County emergency utility service requests received by this office.

413.3 UTILITY SERVICE EMERGENCY

A current contact list of County personnel to be notified in the event of a utility service emergency should be available in Talbot Center.

413.3.1 WATER LINES

The County's responsibility for water lines ends at the water meter; any break or malfunction in the water system from the water meter to a residence or business is the responsibility of the customer.

If a water line break occurs on the County side of the water meter, public works personnel should be notified as soon as practicable.

413.3.2 ELECTRICAL LINES

When an electrical power line poses a hazard, a member of this office should be dispatched to the reported location to protect against personal injury or property damage that might be caused by the power line. The fire department, electric company and/or the public works department should be promptly notified, as appropriate.

413.3.3 RESERVOIRS, PUMPS, WELLS

In the event of flooding or equipment malfunctions involving County reservoirs, pumps or wells, the public works department should be contacted as soon as practicable.

413.3.4 NATURAL GAS LINES

All reports of a possible leak of natural gas or damage to a natural gas line shall promptly be referred to the fire department and the local entity responsible for gas lines. A member of this office should be dispatched to the reported location if it appears that assistance such as traffic control or evacuation is needed.

413.3.5 TRAFFIC SIGNALS

A member of this office should be dispatched upon report of a damaged or malfunctioning traffic signal in order to protect against personal injury or property damage that might occur as the result of the damaged or malfunctioning signal. The member will advise Talbot Center of the problem with the traffic signal. The dispatcher should make the necessary notification to the appropriate traffic signal maintenance agency as soon as practicable.

Talbot County Sheriff's Office

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A decision to place a signal on flash should include a consultation with the appropriate traffic signal maintenance agency, unless exigent circumstances exist.